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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America:
draft resolution

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ which states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2/

Reaffirming the importance of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 3/

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 3452 (XXX), annex.

3/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

Welcoming the recommendation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 4/ that providing necessary resources for assistance to victims of torture should be given high priority, inter alia, by additional contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

Recalling its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, in which it noted with deep concern that acts of torture took place in various countries, recognized the need to provide assistance to the victims of torture in a purely humanitarian spirit and established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

Alarmed at the widespread occurrence of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Convinced that the struggle to eliminate torture includes the provision of assistance in a humanitarian spirit to the victims and members of their families,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 5/

Taking note also of the actions by the Secretary-General, through the staff of the Centre for Human Rights, to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its efforts to increase public awareness of the Fund and its humanitarian work,

Recalling the statement by the Board of Trustees of the Fund on the need to receive contributions from Governments on a regular basis, which, inter alia, would prevent the interruption of programmes in the continuation of which the Fund plays an instrumental role,

Taking account of the fund-raising campaign launched on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees at its eleventh session, held from 22 April to 1 May 1992, to enhance the capacity of the Fund to respond more favourably to the increasing number of requests for assistance to victims of torture,

Taking account also of the increasing number of projects and the repeated requests by the Board of Trustees of the Fund to have adequate staff for the operations of the Fund,

Noting with satisfaction the establishment of an international network of centres for the rehabilitation of torture victims, which plays an important role in providing assistance to victims of torture, and the collaboration of the Fund with these centres,

1. Expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the Governments, organizations and individuals that have already contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

4/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

5/ A/49/484 and Add.1.

2. Appeals to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees, and if possible with a substantial increase in the number and level of contributions in order to take into consideration the ever-increasing demand for assistance;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals, of the Commission on Human Rights for contributions to the Fund;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments that pledged a contribution to the Fund at the 1994 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

6. Expresses its appreciation to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has accomplished;

7. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials, to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its efforts to make the Fund and its humanitarian work better known and in its appeal for contributions;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of adequate and stable staffing and technical equipment to ensure the efficient management of the Fund;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the operations of the Fund.